



1.(Amended) A back protector [in particular] for motorcyclists[,] comprising [two] an upper support and a lower support, said upper support being vertically aligned with said lower support[s], said upper support and lower support being provided with means for [their] fixing them to a motorcyclist's body, each of said supports carrying a plurality of substantially rigid elements fixed thereto, said lower support being hinged to said upper support [on a pin].

2.(Amended) [A] The back protector as claimed in claim 1, wherein said rigid elements [consist of] comprise plates [comprising on one surface] having a strengthening grid of ribs provided at one surface thereof.

3.(Amended) [A] The back protector as claimed in claim 2, wherein [said] the plates of each support are connected together mechanically by hinge elements.

4.(Amended) [A] The back protector as claimed in claim 1, wherein said upper support [also comprises] contains an intermediate layer of material [providing] which provides impact absorption.

5.(Amended) [A] The back protector as claimed in claim 1, wherein said lower support [also comprises] contains an intermediate layer of material [providing] which provides impact absorption.

[8] 6.(Amended) [A] The back protector as claimed in claim 1, wherein said upper [element] support is provided with braces.

7.(Amended) [A] The back protector as claimed in claim 1, wherein said lower [element] support is provided with a belt.

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Please add the following claims:

8. The back protector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lower support is hinged to the upper support by a pin.

9. The back protector as claimed in claim 2, wherein the grid of ribs mutually intersect to form a honeycomb structure.